(c) There is a provision for granting 20 scholarships each year for Commercial Pilot Licence training with a view to enables SC/ST candidates to take up flying as a career.

Details of scholarships for Commercial Pilot Licence Training

Scholarships are provided to eligible SC/ST candidates for undertaking Commercial Pilot Licence Training under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Post Matric Scholarships for SC/ST students. The scholarships provide for payment of compulsory non-refundable fees, including flying charges, as well as maintenance allowance of Rs. 190 per month for hostellers and Rs. 125 per month for day scholars.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Madam, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are the deprived classes for centurics and not enough has been done to improve their lot. The poet has rightly said :

कितने युगों से प्यासे सोचो यारो सोचो तो,
शबनम का हर एक कतरा दरिया लगता है ।

To my mind, the answer is not in confrontation but it lies in development. The poet has said again :

किस को कसकर पत्थर मारूं कौन पराया है,
शीशमहल में इक-इक चेहरा अपना लगता है ।

Madam, this is a Centrally-sponsored scheme for training commercial pilots. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how many students have availed themselves of this scheme. I am told their number is 20. It is restricted to only 20. It is a very small number. What steps is the Government going to take to see that the number is increased ? In reality, how many students have become commercial pilots and what are the funds available for the scheme ?

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : दो शेरों के साथ सवाल किया गया है कम से कम एक शेयर के साथ जवाब होना चाहिए ।

उपसभापति : शेर बन कर तो दे सकते हैं बहादुरी से

like a lawyer, if you cannot recite a 'sher'.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU : Madam, scholarships are provided to eligible SC/ST candidates for undertaking Commercial Pilot Licence Training under the Centrally-sponsored scheme of post-matric scholarships for SC/ST students. The scholarships provide for payment of compulsory non-refundable fees, including flying charges as well as maintenance allowance. (*Interruptions*).

Madam, this year, we have increased it from 15 to 20 students from SC/ST communities to make them career pilots. Our Government is conscious of the fact that we can improve the lot of the SC and ST communities. That is why we have increased it from 15 to 20. There is no bar to more candidates coming. We are certainly willing to give more. So far, in the year 1992-93, only three candidates have come through the West Bengal Government. Four other candidates, one from U.P. and three from Maharashtra also came. And we have sanctioned the schemes. Apart from the 20 scholarships for Commercial Pilot Licences from the Government of India, the Civil Aviation Ministry, 40 students can get the CPL licence. That is also available. There is no dearth of programmes. We are willing to support more candidates if they come forward. In order to promote this area, for this year, we have given advertisement and more candidates are coming forward. We will do our best to see that the SC/ST candidates join this field. The Government is willing to support them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूची में और अधिक जातियों को शामिल किया जाना

*365. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह :** क्या **कल्याण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से आग्रह किया है कि कुल्लु, कांगड़ा, ऊना और हमीरपुर जिलों में रहने वाले गद्दियों और गुजरों को अनुसूचित जनजाति घोषित किया जाए;

(ख) यदि हां, तो केन्द्रीय सरकार को उक्त आग्रह किस तारीख को प्राप्त हुआ; और

(ग) क्या अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूचियों में व्यापक संशोधन के अन्तर्गत उपर्युक्त प्रस्ताव पर भी कार्यवाही की गई है; यदि हां, तो कब, और यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में कब तक कार्यवाही किये जाने की संभावना है ?

कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० वी० इंगकाबालु) : (क) से (ग) पंजाब राज्य के पूनर्गठन के परिणामस्वरूप जो क्षेत्र इस राज्य में मिलाए गए, उनके गद्दियों और गुजरों को अनुसूचित जनजाति के रूप में घोषित करने का हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार का प्रस्ताव 13-3-1981 को प्राप्त हुआ था । ऐसे सभी

प्रस्ताओं को, अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति की सूची के संशोधन के लिए सचिव (कल्याण) की अध्यक्षता में गठित सलाहकार समिति को उनकी सिफारिश हेतु भेजा गया है । समिति की सिफारिश प्राप्त होने पर, संविधान के अनुच्छेद 342 के अंतर्गत संकलित उपबंधों के अनुसार आगामी आवश्यक कार्यवाही की जाएगी ।

Vaidyanathan Committee on Pricing

*366. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI SOM PAL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vaidyanathan Committee on Pricing of Irrigation has submitted its report ;

(b) if so, what are the major recommendations thereof ;

(c) what follow up action is being contemplated thereon ;

(d) whether the Committee has expressed concern over the uncovered cost of irrigation, which is increasing at an unsustainable rapid rate ;

(e) whether Government have attempted to identify the various components of this increasing unsustainable cost of irrigation ;

(f) if so, what are the findings thereof ;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(h) whether it is a fact that the number of officials in irrigation administration, especially in managing the canal system, has increased manifold since independence and accounts for a major increase in the cost of irrigation ; and

(i) whether Government would consider economising on this aspect and reduce overhead costs rather than making the farmers to pay for maintaining this unwanted burden of irrigation administration ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (i) The Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water set up by the Planning Commission in October, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan submitted its report in September, 1992.

The suggestions of the Committee include : treating of water rates as users' charge ; the objective of water charges is ultimately to recover cost ; linking revision of water rates to the improvement of the quality of service ; revision and implementation of water rates in phases ; consolidation of the system of Farmer group management ; upgrading the system to higher level efficiency in water use and productivity ; setting up experts group at the State level for working out norms for operation and maintenance and procedure for periodic review ; setting up of autonomous boards at the State level to review policy regarding cost of water, revising water rates and introducing a minimum financial return criteria.

The copies of the Committee's report have been sent to all States and Union Territories for their comments. The Planning Commission has meanwhile set up a Group of officials to go into the report of the Committee. Irrigation being a state subject decision on water rates can be taken only in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories.

The Committee has expressed its concern over the increasing uncovered cost of irrigation. As per the Committee Report, the various components of the unrecovered cost on account of irrigation and multi-purpose projects are as under ;

(Rs. crores)

Items	1977-78	1986-87
Gross Revenue . .	969	1667
Working Expenses .	1272	4927
Interest on capital average borrowing of Cost . . .	2113	10589
Depreciation @1% .	385	1406
Unrecovered costs	3770	16922
	2801	15255

With the increase in irrigation potential, there has been an increase in number of officials in irrigation administration. The staff component has risen from 34 per cent in 1974-75 to 43 per cent in 1986-87 of the working expenses on irrigation and multi-purpose projects. The Vaidyanathan Committee has considered various aspects of economising and reducing overhead costs and have *inter alia* recommended that staff strength needs to be frozen and redeployed in new commands and also to transfer functions of O&M to users' groups below the point of group delivery.

Damage to Foodgrains Due to Hailstorm

*367. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the extent of damage caused to the orange and foodgrain growers in Vidarbha region due to hailstorm ;

(b) whether Government propose to offer any relief to the affected farmers ; and